THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) It is the endeavour of the Government to develop India as an International Diamond Centre.

(d) and (c) Yes, Sir. Import of rough diamonds into India in terms of value during the last three years is as follows:—

US $ in Million

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005* (Provisional)
Net Import	5454.90	7130.09	7,595.31

Source: DGCI & S *Source: GJEPC

(d) and (c) Foreign Direct Investment Policy envisage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in mining also. For exploration and mining of diamonds and precious stones, Foreign Direct Investment is allowed upto 74% under automatic route.

Export of medicines to America

†245. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to export medicines to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any dialogue between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V. K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Medicines are being exported to the United States of America and the exports of pharmaceutical products during 2003-04 were more than US $ 230 Million.

(c) and (d) Dialogue between the two countries for trade promotion is a sustained and continuous effort. regular interaction takes place at various levels to expand and diversify trade through different trade promotion measures.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.